

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

28 July 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller

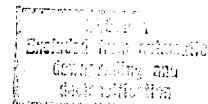
SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation Affecting Southeast Asian Operations

1. This memorandum contains a suggestion for the Executive Director-Comptroller.

2. The Defense Procurement Authorization Bill of 1970, P. L. 91-441, provided that no defense article could be furnished to local forces in Laos or Thailand with funds authorized for the use of the armed forces ^{of the U.S.} unless the government in question agreed to certain conditions on the use of the equipment. It also required a report to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate on the implementation of each such agreement.

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4. Senator Case has now introduced a bill, S. 2254, which amends P. L. 91-441 so that the limitation on funds authorized for the use of the armed forces would also run to the funds of any department, agency, or independent establishment of the United States. This, therefore, makes the requirement for an

25X1A appropriate agreement with the Laotian government and for report

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fore, this amendment would require full publicity on all military support for the irregular forces in Laos.

5. Senator Fulbright has requested the Department of State to comment on the Case bill, and the Department of Defense has requested our coordination on a proposed reply. It is difficult in the present atmosphere to object to Senator Case's proposal,

25X1A which is nothing but a requirement for open accounting of military

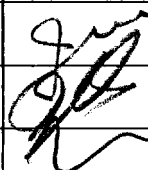
ing requirements under these circumstances. I believe our reply should be along the following lines:

The amendment proposed in Sec. 2(2) of S. 2254 imposes additional reporting and security requirements which are impractical and undesirable in connection with certain military situations important to United States interests in Southeast Asia.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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